



ALLIANCE FOR VULNERABLE MISSION

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Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin

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Editor:

Jim Harries, PhD,

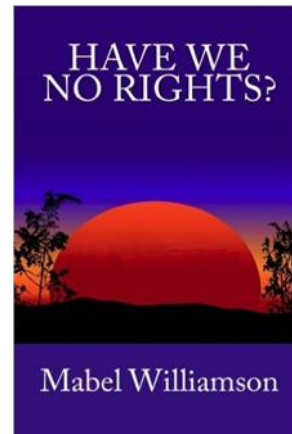
Chairman of the AVM

Executive board	Advisory board	Chris Flanders
Jim Harries	Jonathan Winter	Stan Chu Ilo
Timothy Reeves	Jay Gary	Frank Paul
Fred Lewis	Tomas Dozier	Gord Sawatzky
John Macdonald	Jean Johnson	Stan Nussbaum

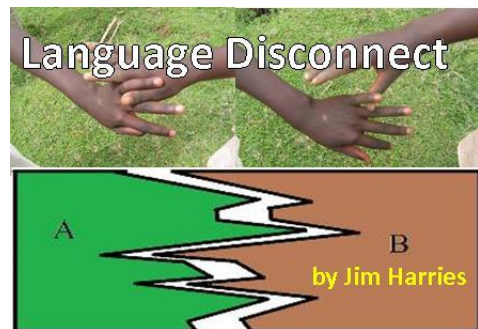
The Alliance for Vulnerable Mission encourages some missionaries from the West to engage in their ministries using local languages and resources.

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- The AVM thanks **Alex Araujo** for his frequent and valued contributions to the AVM over many years of being an advisory board member. Alex was for a while also on the executive board. Alex has now retired from these duties.
- ***Have we no rights?*** asks Mabel Williamson in [this](#) her most-read book. Mabel served in mission in China. Chapter 1 of this book is especially pertinent to vulnerable mission. It makes a comparison between two missionary styles, one of a missionary who has a self-appointed right to ‘run things’ using foreign money. The other of a missionary who forgoes that right and allows local people to lead the way in response to the Gospel ...



- An article by Jim Harries entitled ‘An “Impact Model” of Language, Mission and Development in East Africa,’ has been published in globalmissiology.com, please find it [here](#). “A re-examination of communication theory in this article reveals that coding / decoding models of understanding of language widespread in missiological literature have been misleading. Because they always meet and are affected by contexts, the author suggests that words are more helpfully understood as having ‘impacts’ than ‘meanings’. ...” Jim writes in the abstract.
- Harries, Jim, 2016, ‘The Implications of Disconnect in Translation on Gospel work in Africa: Bible translation in context’, *The Pneuma Review Journal of Ministry Resources and Theology for Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministries & Leaders*. This article is open access, and available [here](#).



- Jim’s book *Secularism and Africa* is [here](#) reviewed in *exchange* (45(3), 2015, 313–314). You will need a subscription to see it – here’s a clue – it talks about pigs and chickens!

(*Secularism and Africa: In the Light of the Intercultural Christ*, Eugene or: Wipf & Stock Publishers 2015, 150 p., isbn 978-1-62564-770-2, paperback.)

- **World Religions' focus**

Below are two articles by Jim Harries on the theme of 'world religions'.

This can be said to be a new theme for the Alliance for Vulnerable Mission. Jim articulates insights that he acquired arising from his use of indigenous languages in Africa. He realised that many theological problems disappear when one ceases to use English. The existence of 'world religions' is one of these. Finding Christianity to be just one of many world religions has been challenging to Western Christians, as their choice of 'religion' seemed to be arbitrary. In the two articles below, and in more to come, Jim unpacks this problem. 'World religions', Jim finds, is an invented concept. ***World religions are projections of Christianity onto the ways of life of non-Western people.*** This realisation accentuates the need for use of indigenous languages in mission. It challenges contemporary academia and the contemporary media, whose global reporting is found to be introspective. It challenges missionaries to engage *the other* instead of boxing their own shadows.



Harries, Jim, 2016, 'Shadow-boxing: the missionary encounter with Christian theology in world religions', is published in: *The Pneuma Review, Journal of Ministry Resources and Theology for Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministries & Leaders*. This is open access. Read the article [here](#).

Jim's recent article in EMQ (Evangelical Missions' Quarterly) is entitled '**The Fallacy of World Religions: a view from Africa**'. You may need a subscription from EMQ in order to read the article. It is located [here](#). This is a missionary-friendly account based on personal ministry experience by Jim. It unveils enormous deceptions underlying the prominence of 'world religions' in today's world.

EMQ Archives » Issue - January 2017

The Fallacy of World Religions: A View from Africa

Jim Harries

Teaching world religions to African students in Kenya gradually became a strange experience. I say gradually, because in my earlier years of teaching I did not seem to realize what was happening. As the years went by, I perceived that my students were having to go through significant mental acrobatics to grasp what I was saying. I was teaching (and I had no choice but to do this) world religions as if they were not wastelands to students who were not wastelanders. The way I taught world religions, in

Moving beyond post-colonial dependency: developing sustainability through vulnerability

sponsored by the **Alliance for Vulnerable Mission** (vulnerablemission.org)

Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, www.tsm.org

Wednesday 8th November 2017 registration at 5.00pm, finishing 12 noon on Saturday 11th November.

Cost: \$270.00 conference and meals. Bed and breakfast separate. Discounts available for those attending part-time and/or students.

Speakers to include:

Jean Johnson, Director, World Mission Associates.

Dr. Stan Nussbaum, Global Mapping International.

Rev. Canon Dr. John Macdonald, Trinity School for Ministry, PA.

Dr. Jim Harries, Chair, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission.

Fred and Carol Lewis, Worldview, Portland, OR.

and other speakers ...



'Emphasising the use of indigenous languages and resources as the norm for some intercultural workers.'

We are looking for presenters of papers in other languages: Korean, Swahili, Spanish ...

Queries to: jim@vulnerablemission.org or jmacdonald@tsm.edu

(Details may still change. Registration to open 1st March 2017.)

